

## GLOSSARY of LIBRARY TERMS and ACRONYMS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY COMMUNITY

(updated March 25, 2002)

- ACRL/NEC** [Association of College & Research Libraries/ New England Chapter](#)  
ACRL/NEC is an organization of more than 1200 librarians dedicated to improving academic and research library services, and to increasing their own knowledge of the constantly changing information environment. Members represent all types of academic libraries and all the specializations within librarianship--from acquisitions to web master.
- ADA** [Americans with Disabilities Act](#)  
Americans with Disabilities Act (U.S. Public Law 101-336)  
**Section 508** of the Rehabilitation Act 1998 (29 U.S.C. 794d) Agencies must give disabled employees and the public access to information that is comparable to the access available to others. **Section 504** is an earlier version of Rehabilitation Act requiring physical accessibility of buildings.
- AJL** [Association of Jewish Libraries](#)  
An international professional organization devoted to the educational, informational, and networking needs of librarians responsible for collections of Judaica and to the promotion of Judaica librarianship.
- ALA** [American Library Association](#)  
The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. ACRL, ALTA, ASCLA, and PLA, noted separately in this glossary, are divisions of ALA.
- ALAWON** [American Library Association Washington Office Newslite](#)  
The free e-mail publication of the ALA Washington Office provides up-to-the minute coverage of current and proposed legislation relating to libraries.
- ALTA** [Association for Library Trustees and Advocates](#)  
A division of ALA for trustees and library advocates which is designed to support trustees and state trustee associations and encourage citizen support for libraries of all types.
- ARL** [Association of Research Libraries](#)  
ARL is a not-for-profit membership organization comprising the leading research libraries in North America. Its mission is to shape and influence forces affecting the future of research libraries in the process of scholarly communication. ARL programs and services promote equitable access to and effective use of recorded knowledge in support of teaching, research, scholarship, and community service.
- ARIHSL** [Association of Rhode Island Health Sciences Libraries](#)  
This Association promotes resource sharing and information exchange; to provide a

symposium for professional development and to encourage and maintain interest in health sciences libraries.

**ASCLA**

[Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies](#)

This division of the American Library Association represents state library agencies, specialized library agencies, independent libraries, and multitype library cooperatives.

**ASIST**

[American Society for Information Science and Technology](#)

ASIST is the only professional society that bridges the gap between one discipline and another... between the diverse needs of researchers, developers and end users... and between the challenge and opportunities associated with emerging technologies and applications.

**[Blue Ribbon Committee \(BRC\)](#)**

"The Rhode Island Library Association (RILA), perceiving that many of the recommendations of the Burger Report would require a great deal of thought and discussion, planning and—most important—consensus-building within the library community-requested that the Library Board to approve and work with a RILA-sponsored Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC)." (From the Introduction to the Report of RILA's Blue Ribbon Committee on the Burger Report to the Library Board of Rhode Island, 2000.) The Blue Ribbon Committee commenced its work in May 1999.

***Bricks and Mortar for the Mind: Statewide Preservation Program for Rhode Island* (1992)**

This publication is the product of an NEH grant for planning a statewide preservation program.

**Burger Report**

(See *New Possibilities: Rhode Island Libraries for the Next Millennium*)

**Center for the Book**

[Center for the Book in the Library of Congress](#)

"The Center for the book was established by law in 1977 to stimulate public interest in books and reading, libraries and literacy. A partnership between the government and the private sector, the center depends primarily on tax-deductible contributions from corporations and individuals to support its overall program of projects and publications of interest to both the general public and scholars."

**CIPA**

[Children's Internet Protection Act](#)

The **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)** and the Neighborhood Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) went into effect on April 20, 2001. These new laws place restrictions on the use of funding that is available through the Library Services and Technology Act, Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and on the Universal Service discount program known as the E-rate (Public Law 106-554). These restrictions take the form of requirements for Internet safety policies and technology which blocks or filters certain material from being accessed through the Internet.

**CLA**

[Connecticut Library Association](#)

The Association is established for educational and scientific purposes. It is conducted as a nonprofit corporation; to advance the interests of librarians and librarianship; to

foster communication among librarians and those interested in libraries; to work for the improvement of library services to the people of the State of Connecticut.

- CLAN**      [Cooperating Libraries Automated Network](#)  
CLAN is a consortium of public libraries in Rhode Island that is linked through a statewide communications network and a Dynix/Horizon computer system.
- CNI**      [Coalition for Networked Information](#)  
CNI is an organization dedicated to supporting the transformative promise of networked information technology for the advancement of scholarly communication and the enrichment of intellectual productivity.
- COLA**      [Coalition of Library Advocates](#)  
A membership organization of Rhode Island citizens who support libraries and provide a forum for advocacy. Awards to libraries, trustees, and library advocates are given at the annual meeting, which also provides an opportunity for librarians and citizens to meet.
- COSLA**      [Chief Officers of State Library Agencies](#)  
COSLA is an independent organization of the chief officers of state and territorial agencies designated as the state library administrative agency and responsible for statewide library development. Its purpose is to identify and address issues of common concern and national interest; to further state library agency relationships with federal government and national organizations; and to initiate cooperative action for the improvement of library services to the people of the United States.
- COSLINE**      [Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast](#)  
An organization for the staff of thirteen state library agencies in CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, and WV.
- CRIARL**      [Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries](#)  
CRIARL is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization of academic and research libraries whose purpose is to promote cooperation and communication among its members, to improve the library resources and services of its members, and to work closely with appropriate agencies in pursuit of its goals.
- DCMA**

The 1998 enactment of the [Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#) (DMCA) represents the most comprehensive reform of United States copyright law in a generation. The DMCA seeks to update U.S. copyright law for the digital age in preparation for ratification of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties.

Key among the topics included in the DMCA are provisions concerning the circumvention of copyright protection systems, fair use in a digital environment, and online service provider (OSP) liability (including details on safe harbors, damages, and "notice and takedown" practices). Resources on these and other topics are included below. See also [Educause](#) page on DMCA

**DSLS**      [Department of State Library Services](#) established in 1964 replaced by the Office Of Library and Information Services (OLIS) in 1996.

**Digital Divide**

Differences due to geography, race, economic status, gender, and physical ability

- in access to information through the Internet, and other information technologies and services
- in the skills, knowledge, and abilities to use information, the Internet and other technologies.

[Digital Divide Network](#)

**E-rate**      Term used for [Universal Service Fund](#) program for schools and libraries.

**FDLP**      [Federal Depository Library Program](#)  
There are approximately 1,350 Federal depository libraries throughout the United States and its territories, at least one in almost every Congressional District. All provide free public access to a wide variety of Federal government information in both print and electronic formats, and have expert staff available to assist users.

**[Find-It! Rhode Island](#)**

A government search engine that provides keyword and subject searching for web pages and documents created by government and quasi-government agencies in Rhode Island. Find-It! harvests information from local and state government servers only and is the model for at least six other states. This is a cooperative program between the Secretary of State's Office and Library Programs.  
(<http://www.find-it.state.ri.us>)

**GILS**      [Government Information Locator Service](#) (federal)  
A systematic way of providing internet/world wide web searching for government information. (See also [Find-It! Rhode Island](#) above)

**Governor's Conference**

Rhode Island Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services, 1979, April 6-8, Biltmore Plaza, Providence.  
Rhode Island Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services: *Citizens Shaping the Future of Library Services in Rhode Island*, 1991, March 16-17, Omni Biltmore Hotel, Providence. (*The papers of these conferences are available at the Rhode Island State Archives*)

**GSLIS**      [URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies](#)  
The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies exercises leadership in the global information age through research, service, and the preparation of knowledgeable and ethical professionals who can serve the library and information needs of a diverse society.

**HELIN**      [Higher Education Library Information Network](#)

HELIN is a consortium of seven public and private academic libraries in Rhode Island. The HELIN libraries share an online catalog of each library's holdings.

**HTTP**      [Hypertext Transfer Protocol](#).

The Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is the set of rules for exchanging files (text, graphic images, sound, video, and other multimedia files) on the [World Wide Web](#). Relative to the [TCP/IP](#) suite of protocols (which are the basis for information exchange on the Internet), HTTP is an application [protocol](#).

Essential concepts that are part of HTTP include (as its name implies) the idea that files can contain references to other files whose selection will elicit additional transfer requests. Any [Web server](#) machine contains, in addition to the HTML and other files it can serve, an HTTP [daemon](#), a program that is designed to wait for HTTP requests and handle them when they arrive. Your Web [browser](#) is an HTTP [client](#), sending requests to server machines. When the browser user enters file requests by either "opening" a Web file (typing in a [Uniform Resource Locator](#)) or clicking on a [hypertext link](#), the browser builds an HTTP request and sends it to the [Internet Protocol address](#) indicated by the URL. The HTTP daemon in the destination server machine receives the request and, after any necessary processing, the requested file is returned.

**Hypertext**      Hypertext is the organization of information units into connected associations that a user can choose to make. An instance of such an association is called a [link](#) or hypertext link. (And the highlighted word "link" in the previous sentence is an example of a hypertext link.)

**HTML**      Hypertext markup language. HTML is the *lingua franca* for publishing hypertext on the World Wide Web. It is a non-proprietary format based upon SGML, and can be created and processed by a wide range of tools, from simple plain text editors - you type it in from scratch- to sophisticated WYSIWYG authoring tools. HTML uses tags such as <h1> and </h1> to structure text into headings, paragraphs, lists, hypertext links etc. Here is a [10-minute guide](#) for newcomers to HTML. (from the World Wide Web Consortium or [W3C](#))

**IMLS**      [Institute of Museum & Library Services](#)  
The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent federal agency that fosters leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning. IMLS supports all types of museums, from art and history, to science and zoos, and all types of libraries and archives, from public and academic to research and school. IMLS expands the educational benefit of these institutions by encouraging partnerships. IMLS administers LSTA funds.

**INFO**      [RI State Government Information webpage](#)  
A website created and updated by OLIS Library Programs staff as a guide to state government agencies and selected other RI related information.  
(<http://www.info.state.ri.us>)

**Interstate Library Compact** [RIGL 29-5](#)  
Authorizes cooperative library services on an interstate basis

**ITOC** Information Technology Operations Center  
Computer operations center for Rhode Island state government.

**LFF** [Libraries for the Future](#)  
"Libraries for the Future is a national nonprofit organization of public library advocates. LFF educates and activates current and potential library users to become advocates and to enhance the relationship between libraries and communities, particularly those that are disenfranchised. The LFF program promotes community participation and universal access to literacy, lifelong learning, and information- essential tools for democracy."

### **Library Study**

(See *New Possibilities: Rhode Island Libraries for the Next Millennium*)

**LORI** [Library of Rhode Island](#)  
LORI, the state multitype library network, is comprised of most Rhode Island libraries, including public, academic, special, school, government, and some private institutions. The LORI website is developed and managed by OLIS Library Programs staff. The website provides information about Library Programs as well as information for and referrals to RI libraries. (<http://www.lori.state.ri.us>)

**LORI Pro** [Library Programs website for library staff](#)  
The site, designed to meet the professional needs of LORI library staff includes access to e-mail accounts and databases such as *FirstSearch*. (<http://www.lori.state.ri.us/loripro>)

**LSCA** [Library Services and Construction Act](#)  
Successor of the Library Services Act (LSA) of 1956, which was designed to promote the extension of library services to rural areas. In 1964, LSA was amended to include urban and rural public libraries. Its titles consisted of Services; Construction; Interlibrary Cooperation; Older Readers Services; Foreign Language Materials; Library Literacy Programs and American Indian tribes.

**LSTA** [Library Services and Technology Act](#)  
(formerly LSCA, Library Services and Construction Act)  
This cornerstone of federal funding for libraries (passed in 1997) focuses on technology and outreach for all types of libraries, crossing local and state boundaries. OLIS is charged with LSTA administration for RI libraries.

**MARC** [Machine-Readable Cataloging](#) records.  
An internationally accepted standard for the exchange of bibliographic data in machine-readable form.

### **Metadata/Metatags**

Metadata is structured data about data. The term has been used only in the past 15 years, and has become particularly common with the popularity of the World Wide Web. However, the underlying concepts have been in use for as long as collections of information have been organized. Library catalogs represent a well established variety of metadata that has served for decades as collection management and resource discovery tools. The Find-It! Rhode Island metadata attribute contains core elements ( a set of

metatags) such as title, description, keywords, subjects, originator (agency), medium, creation date. These are applied to the html part of the webpage or document and are available to search engines, but cannot be seen on the actual web page or document. Dublin Core is another metadata attribute scheme used by some libraries to catalog online records. CORC (an OCLC product) is optimized for the description of electronic resources, such as web sites, web accessible documents, digitized material, and for any browser accessible item. It can also be used by members for whom a traditional MARC record is not appropriate and a Dublin Core record is.

- MLA**      [Maine Library Association](#)  
The Maine Library Association promotes library interests in the state and provides leadership in ensuring access to all citizens through libraries to the global information network. Founded in 1892, the Association is affiliated with the American Library Association as the Maine Chapter of the national association.
- MLA**      [Massachusetts Library Association](#)  
State association of library professionals and paraprofessionals founded in 1890 as the Massachusetts Library Club. MLA acts as an advocate for excellence in library service and protector of intellectual freedom throughout the commonwealth.
- MLA**      [Medical Library Association](#)  
Founded in 1898 as the Association of Medical Librarians, MLA is the national association, which fosters excellence in the professional achievement and leadership of health sciences library and information professionals to enhance the quality of health care, education, and research.
- MLA**      [Music Library Association](#)  
The Music Library Association is the professional organization in the United States devoted to music librarianship and to all aspects of music materials in libraries.
- NAGARA**      [National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators](#)  
NAGARA champions good management of government archives and records programs for the benefit of government and its citizens. The association provides a forum for government archives and records professionals to meet, share information, and work cooperatively to solve common problems.
- NAHSL**      [North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries, Inc.](#)  
NAHSL was established in 1958 as a regional group representing Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. It became an official Chapter of the Medical Library Association in 1981 and is an organization of professional librarians, individuals and institutions interested in health sciences libraries.
- NASCIO**      [National Association of State Chief Information Officers](#) [new name of NASIRE]  
NASCIO represents state chief information officers and information resource executives and managers from the 50 states, 6 U. S. territories, and the District of Columbia. State members are senior officials from any of the three branches of state government who have executive-level and statewide responsibility for information resource management.



<b>NCLIS</b>	<a href="#">U.S. National Commission on Libraries &amp; Information Science</a> The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science is a permanent, independent agency of the federal government charged with advising the executive and legislative branches on national library and information policies and plans.
<b>NEA</b>	<a href="#">New England Archivists</a> The New England Archivists is a professional organization of archivists and others responsible for the access, preservation, and organization of records and manuscripts that document society.
<b>NEDCC</b>	<a href="#">Northeast Document Conservation Center</a> The Northeast Document Conservation Center is the largest nonprofit, regional conservation center in the United States. Its mission is to improve the preservation programs of libraries, archives, museums, and other historical and cultural organizations; to provide the highest quality services to institutions that cannot afford in-house conservation facilities or that require specialized expertise; and to provide leadership to the preservation field. OLIS contracts with NEDCC for specific services for all RI institutions.
<b>NEA</b>	<a href="#">National Endowment for the Arts</a> Independent Federal agency supporting the work of individuals and nonprofit institutions engaged in projects involving the arts.
<b>NEH</b>	<a href="#">National Endowment for the Humanities</a> Independent Federal agency supporting the work of individuals and nonprofit institutions engaged in projects involving the humanities.
<b>NEI</b>	<a href="#">New England Interactive</a> The Rhode Island portal contractor. It is a subsidiary of the National Information Consortium (NIC). NEI will build a portal for the services of Rhode Island state government agencies and will provide connections to and integrate all information services provided by RI government.
<b>NELA</b>	<a href="#">New England Library Association</a> The mission of the New England Library Association is to promote excellence in library services to the people of New England and to advance the leadership role of its members in developing and ensuring that excellence.
<b>NELINET</b>	<a href="#">[New England Library Network]</a> NELINET, Inc. is a non-profit membership cooperative of more than 600 academic, public and special libraries in the six New England States. NELINET is strongly committed to promote the advancement of libraries; promote the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and information; facilitate the sharing of library and information resources and services; promote the rapid and efficient access to and delivery of information and library resources. OLIS contracts with NELINET for statewide services including use, by library staff, of a database ( <i>FirstSearch</i> ).



**New Possibilities: Rhode Island Libraries for the Next Millennium (1999)**

This report describes the findings of a study, funded by COLA, about the future of RI libraries. The study was conducted in several ways, including: librarian focus groups, conversations with users, interviews with leaders in business and political communities, a Library Board of RI retreat, and meetings with the COLA Library Study committee. Leslie Burger, Library Development Solutions, Princeton Junction, NJ, prepared the report.

**NHLA**      [New Hampshire Library Association](#)

State association of library professionals and paraprofessionals organized to “promote good library service from all types of libraries to all people of the State and to cooperate with other groups of similar interest.”

**NIC**      [National Information Consortium](#) Parent company of NEI (New England Interactive), which is building the RI state government portal (RI.gov)

**NLS**      [National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped](#)  
Library of Congress program circulating Braille and recorded materials to eligible borrowers through a network of cooperating libraries, such as Talking Books Plus.

**NNLM-NER**      [National Network of Libraries of Medicine-New England Region](#)  
Regional component of the national network whose mission is to advance the progress of medicine and improve the public health by providing all U.S. health professionals equal access to biomedical information and by improving the public's access to information to enable them to make informed decisions about their health. The Program is coordinated by the [National Library of Medicine](#) and carried out through a nationwide network of health science libraries and information centers.

**OCLC**      [\[Online Computer Library Center\]](#)  
OCLC, Inc. is a nonprofit membership organization serving 40,102 libraries in 76 countries and territories around the world. The mission is to further access to the world's information and reduce library costs by offering services for libraries and their users. NELINET is a network of OCLC.

**OIF**      [Office of Intellectual Freedom](#)  
ALA office responsible for a broad range of intellectual freedom activities, including following state legislation, serving as a major resource for library advocates on IF issues, and coordinating Banned Books Week. Additionally, ALA works with several coalitions on Intellectual Freedom issues.

**OLIS**      [Office of Library & Information Services](#)  
This RI state level office replaced the Department of State Library Services (DSLS) which had been established in 1964. It now encompasses Library Programs, Information Technology, Telecommunications, and the Statewide Planning Program.

<b>OSHEAN</b>	<a href="#">Ocean State Higher Education, Economic Development and Administrative Network</a> The Ocean State Higher Education, Economic development and Administrative Network (OSHEAN) is a non-profit consortium formed to foster the development of a high-speed communications infrastructure that will ensure Rhode Island's future success in research and education.
<b>Peat Marwick Study</b>	(See <i>Rhode Island Library Study: Strategic Plan for Library Services</i> 1988)
<b>PLA</b>	<a href="#">Public Library Association</a> The purpose of this ALA division is to advance the development and effectiveness of public library service and public librarians.
<b>Portal</b>	Portals are often the first page your web browser loads when you start up your web browser, Netscape Navigator, Microsoft Internet Explorer, etc. Rhode Island's state web portal, or "one-stop-shopping for RI government services", is being developed under contract with NEI.
<i>Rhode Island Library Study: Strategic Plan for Library Services</i> (1988)	
<b>RI.gov</b>	The RI portal's Internet address (as in <a href="http://www.RI.gov">http://www.RI.gov</a> ) which is being constructed by the company, NEI.
<b>RIEMA</b>	<a href="#">Rhode Island Educational Media Association</a> The Rhode Island Educational Media Association is a professional organization representing school library media professionals and support staff working for school library media, computer, and instructional technology programs in Rhode Island. RIEMA is an affiliate of both the American Library Association's division of American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT).
<b>RIGL</b>	<a href="#">Rhode Island General Laws</a>
<b>RILA</b>	<a href="#">Rhode Island Library Association</a> Professional association of librarians, library staff, library trustees, and library supporters whose purpose is to promote the profession of librarianship and to improve the visibility, accessibility, responsiveness, and effectiveness of library and information services throughout Rhode Island.
<b>RILINK</b>	<a href="#">Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids</a> RILINK's mission is to assist schools in their efforts to "close the gaps" in student learning by giving Rhode Island's K-12 students, faculty and staff increased access to school library media center materials.
<b>RITEC</b>	<a href="#">Rhode Island Technology Council</a> The Rhode Island Technology Council is a not for profit organization whose mission is to foster a healthy, prosperous and competitive environment for the Rhode Island technology industry.
<b>RLG</b>	<a href="#">Research Libraries Group</a>

RLG is a not-for-profit membership corporation of over 160 universities, national libraries, archives, historical societies, and other institutions with remarkable collections for research and learning. Rooted in collaborative work that addresses members' shared goals for these collections, RLG develops and operates information resources used by members and nonmembers around the world.

**SLA**

[Special Libraries Association](#)

The Special Libraries Association is the international association representing the interests of thousands of information professionals in sixty countries. Special librarians are information resource experts who collect, analyze, evaluate, package, and disseminate information to facilitate accurate decision-making in corporate, academic, and government settings. There is a Rhode Island chapter of SLA.

**SLD**

[Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company \(USAC\)](#)

Agency responsible for management of the Universal Service Fund (e-rate).

**SRRC**

[Statewide Reference Resource Center](#)

RIGL 29-6-9 (Rhode Island library network) specifies the Providence Public Library as the Reference Resource Center.

**State Library**

[The Rhode Island State Library](#) is the legislative library for the state. The State Librarian is appointed by the Secretary of State to head the library.

**State Library Agency**

[The Department of State Library Services](#) (DSLS) now OLIS.

OLIS is responsible for the administration of federal funds for services to Rhode Island citizens. It provides statewide services to libraries and the public.

**TBP**

[Talking Books Plus](#)

OLIS Library Programs Regional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped.

**TechACCESS of Rhode Island**

Founded in 1991 to serve people with disabilities, TechACCESS's programs are offered to assistive technology users, their families, educational and therapeutic professionals, and others interested in learning more about assistive technology. OLIS contracts with TechACCESS for alternate document production, information about assistive technologies for libraries, and workshops/forums about library services for people with disabilities.

**UCITA**

[Uniform Computer Information Transaction Act](#)

The Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA) is a proposed state contract law developed to regulate transactions in intangible goods such as computer software, online databases and other information products in digital form. UCITA was originally intended to be a revision to the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), which has been adopted in almost all of the states and territories of the U.S. and which ensures consistent rules governing contract law from state to

state. Because the two legal bodies charged with drafting changes to the UCC failed last year to agree on a draft, the proposed statute is being introduced in each state as a stand-alone addition to the state's legal codes. Publishers and large software producers are the primary supporters of UCITA. Libraries, consumer protection groups, and a number of businesses have been among those opposing the enactment of UCITA as it has been introduced in several states starting in the Fall of 1999.

- ULC** "The [Urban Libraries Council](#) (ULC) is an association of large public libraries and corporations that serve them, organized to solve common problems, better understand new opportunities and conduct applied research that improves professional practice."
- URL** Uniform Resource Locator
- URLs are used to 'locate' resources on the World Wide Web, by providing an abstract identification of the resource location. It is essentially an Internet address. For example: <http://www.lori.state.ri.us>
- USAC** [The Universal Service Administrative Company](#) (USAC)  
A private, not for profit corporation that is responsible for providing every state and territory in the United States with access to affordable telecommunications services through the Universal Service Fund.
- WHCLIS** White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services  
On Dec. 31, 1974, President Ford signed Public Law 93-568 authorizing the White House Conference to "develop recommendations for the further improvement of the Nation's libraries and information centers and their use by the public." President Jimmy Carter signed an appropriations bill on May 4, 1977 to plan and conduct the Conference under the direction of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (which was created by President Nixon as a permanent, independent Federal agency). States held Governors' conferences and sent delegates to the White House Conferences (1979 and 1991).
- WHCLIST** [White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services Task Force](#)  
Formed to follow up on the recommendations from the first White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services in 1979.
- WWW** World Wide Web.
- The WWW project, started by Tim Berners-Lee while at CERN (the European Laboratory for Particle Physics), seeks to build a "distributed hypermedia system." In practice, the web is a vast collection of interconnected documents, spanning the world. Tim Berners-Lee continues his pioneering work with the [W3 Consortium](#) at MIT.

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